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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 16 of the specification with the following paragraph:

In the above-described regeneration-platemaking-printing cycle the imagewise exposing part 6a, which is characteristic of the present invention, i.e., the unit for imagewise irradiating the hydrophobilized printing plate precursor with far-ultraviolet active light is described in more detail with reference to Fig. 4. Fig. 4 presents a schematic illustration showing the mechanism and the structure of the imagewise exposing part using a solid state laser as a light source. The solid state laser 11 has oscillation wavelengths of 512 nm and its half, i.e., 256 nm. In this embodiment, far-ultraviolet light having a wavelength of 256 nm is made use of. Laser light emitted from the laser 11 is made into parallel beams through a collimator and reflected and split through an optical system composed of mirrors 12, 13', 14a, 14d and half mirrors 13, 14c, and ~~14d-14b~~ to reach the platemaking-printing mechanisms a, b, c, and d. Each split beam passes through the respective optical device system for bearing image information which comprises a spatial light modulator 15a, 15b, 15c or 15d and a condensing lens 16a, 16b, 16c or 16d into a laser beam bearing the respective monochromatic image information, which, being reflected on a half mirror 17a, 17b, 17c or 17c, reaches to the printing plate precursor to conduct imagewise exposure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 50, line 24 of the specification with the following paragraph:

The following test was carried out using, in the overall hydrophobilizing part 4a (Fig. 2), a hydrophobilizing unit of the type shown in Fig. 6 in which vapor of a hydrophobilizer is condensed to form a hydrophobilizing layer. The hydrophobilizing unit had a glass tube 26 having an inner diameter of about 30 mm (a separatory funnel was made use of) was connected to an air inlet ~~24~~36 almost horizontally to that open air might enter the inside of the unit through the glass tube 26. Diatomaceous earth impregnated with silicon oil (Silicon KF99 available from Shin-Etsu Chemical Co. Ltd.) 27 was put into the lower half of the glass tube 26 (50% of the volume of the glass tube). The glass tube 26 was heated by an electric heater 30 so that the temperature of air entering through the inlet ~~24~~36 was elevated from room temperature up to 150°C while passing through the tube. Since Silicon KF99 has a vapor pressure of at least 1 mmHg at that temperature, the air entering the inside of the unit contained vapor of Silicon KF99. The air exchange rate in the inside space of the unit, which was 2 liters, was 10 vol% per minute. In Fig. 6, numeral 31 indicates an electric heater, ~~and~~ numerals 32 and 33 are temperature sensors, and numeral 34 is a temperature control section.